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Spring 2021

## STS 221-H02: Introduction to Sociology

Katherine Tyrol

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# **New Jersey Institute of Technology**

## **Introduction to Sociology**

**STS 221**  
**Spring 2021**

**Instructor:** Dr. Kate Tyrol  
**Office:** 310 Cullimore Hall  
**Contact:** [katherine.a.tyrol@njit.edu](mailto:katherine.a.tyrol@njit.edu)

**Office Hours:**  
Online  
Fridays 4 – 5 PM (or by appointment)

**Course Meeting Time and Location:**  
Thursdays and Fridays, 9 – 10:20 AM  
Kupfrian 105 and online

Canvas: <https://njit.instructure.com/courses/16892>

## **Texts**

Kagan, J. (1985.) *Uhura's Song*. New York, NY: Pocket Books.

Andersen, M.L., Taylor, H.F., & Logio, K.A. (2017.) *Sociology: The Essentials*, 9th Edition. Boston, MA: Cengage Learning.  
(Note that this is *not* the most recent edition; alternate editions are, however, acceptable.)

## **Course Description**

This course is designed to introduce students to research methods used in the human and social sciences. The course will advance a framework, a process, and compositional approaches to help students become proficient in research design, practice, and writing. The course will examine three sociological methods: quantitative, qualitative, and mixed methods. The course will also examine selected ethical and political issues associated with the role of research methods in the production of knowledge and expertise.

As an honors course, students will be expected to take an active, leadership role in learning the material. The course will be structured around self-driven small groups instead of lecture. There will also be an ongoing supplemental exercise in performing sociological analysis of a fictional society.

## **Course Objectives**

In this course, students will demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of:

- The sociological perspective
- How the basic concepts and theoretical orientations of sociology apply to daily life

- One's social contexts and the larger society in which they are embedded
- Social inequalities and their impact on citizens today

## Policies

### University Policy on Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is the cornerstone of higher education and is central to the ideals of this course and the university. Cheating (which includes plagiarism) is strictly prohibited and devalues the degree that you are working on. As a member of the NJIT community, it is your responsibility to protect your educational investment by knowing and following the academic code of integrity policy that is found at:

<http://www5.njit.edu/policies/sites/policies/files/academic-integrity-code.pdf>.

Please note that it is the instructor's professional obligation and responsibility to report any academic misconduct to the Dean of Students Office. **Any student found in violation of the code by cheating, plagiarizing or using any online software inappropriately will result in disciplinary action. This may include a failing grade of F, and/or suspension or dismissal from the university.** If you have any questions about the code of Academic Integrity, please contact the Dean of Students Office at dos@njit.edu.

### Accessibility

This class is intended to be fully available to students regardless of health or disability status (whether mental or physical). If you need reasonable accommodations to complete the course because of a disability, you can reach out to the course instructor or to the office of accessibility resources and services.

### Course Environment

This course should be a safe space: in the classroom, in one-on-one discussions with the instructor, and in online spaces for this course. This means no hate speech (slurs or derogatory or demeaning comments) and no bullying. You are expected to treat your classmates respectfully and with kindness, generosity, and empathy.

### Assignment Submission

All assignments are to be submitted through Canvas unless other arrangements are made with the instructor. Files must be of type .doc, .docx, .pdf, or .txt unless otherwise instructed. *Google Docs are NOT acceptable.*

Should you encounter technical problems, contact the NJIT helpdesk at 973-596-2900 (or simply extension 2900 from campus locations). In the event that it is impossible to submit through Canvas, you must submit a paper version of the assignment that includes an explanation of why online submission was not possible. If you cannot attend class, you may deliver paper submissions to the Humanities Department office in Cullimore Hall. Emailed work is not an acceptable substitute.

### Late Submissions

Assignment deadlines are not flexible. I encourage you to complete and submit assignments well in advance to avoid encountering any problems deadlines.

All late assignments will be docked 1% per day, except when an assignment is not accepted late as noted on Canvas.

No work whatsoever will be accepted after May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 5 PM.

## **Technology**

You are required to bring a device with you to class that will allow you to access Canvas. This likely means a tablet, laptop or smart phone. There is no makeup credit if you do not bring such a device and are unable as a result to complete course activities that day.

## **Miscellaneous**

All assignments other than small group exercises should be completed individually unless permission granted by instructor ahead of time.

No grade changes will be made without a scheduled, in-person meeting. You can ask questions about your grade in any context you would like, but you need to also schedule an in-person meeting with me if you believe a grade deserves re-evaluation.

This syllabus is subject to change throughout the semester. All efforts will be made to adhere to the main deadlines listed here, but topics covered and readings assigned may change to meet the needs and interests of the class.

Please ask questions as frequently as possible, both in the classroom, outside of it, and online. Attend office hours or make an appointment. There is no reason for you not to understand assignments or expectations, so please take an active role in obtaining the knowledge you want or need.

## **Grading & Assignments**

### **Writing Assignments – 33.3%**

Writing assignments will be due throughout the semester. Each will be available on Canvas and will include a description. Your response will be graded on appropriate length (400 – 900 words), coherence, quality of analysis, and in-depth use of course content. Please note that these are not freeform writing exercises, therefore, if a response does not address concepts covered in this class, it will receive a zero.

### **Small Group Outlines –33.3%**

Tuesday class meetings will be spent exclusively in small groups. You will spend this time discussing the content of the chapter and developing an outline of the chapter with accompanying discussion questions. You will be qualitatively assessed on both your small group's summaries and your participation in your small group.

These outlines will be due by the end of the class meeting. They will not be accepted late.

### Book Write-Up – 33.3%

We will be reading a novel together over the course of the semester and discussing how a sociologist would evaluate the events in this novel. At the end of the semester, you will select one *textbook* chapter (or more, with the instructor's permission), and analyze the novel through the lens of that textbook chapter.

Because the due date is the end of the semester, this assignment will not be accepted late.

### Grading Scale

A	90 - 100
B+	88 – 89. $\overline{9}$
B	80 – 87. $\overline{9}$
C+	78 – 79. $\overline{9}$
C	70 – 77. $\overline{9}$
D	60 – 69. $\overline{9}$
F	0 – 59. $\overline{9}$

## Readings and Schedule

Wk	Topic	Reading	Due
1	Introduction, Syllabus, etc.		
	The Sociological Perspective	Chapter 1, Andersen et al	
2	Culture and the Media	Chapter 2, Andersen et al	
		Chapters 1, 2 & 3, Kagan	
3	Doing Sociological Research	Chapter 3, Andersen et al	Writing Assignment #1
		Chapters 4 & 5, Kagan	
4	Socialization and the Life Course	Chapter 4, Andersen et al	Writing Assignment #2
		Chapter 6, Kagan	
5	Social Structure and Social Interaction	Chapter 5, Andersen et al	Writing Assignment #3
		Chapter 7, Kagan	
6	Groups and Organizations	Chapters 6, Andersen et al	Writing Assignment #4
		Chapters 8 & 9, Kagan	
7	Deviance and Crime	Chapter 7, Andersen et al	
		Chapter 10, Kagan	
8	Social Class and Social Stratification	Chapter 8, Andersen et al	
		Chapter 11, Kagan	
9	<b>**SPRING BREAK**</b>		
10	Global Stratification	Chapter 9, Andersen et al	
		Chapter 12, Kagan	
11	Race and Ethnicity	Chapter 10, Andersen et al and supplemental reading	
		Chapter 13, Kagan	
12	Gender	Chapter 11, Andersen et al	Writing Assignment #5
		Chapter 14, Kagan	
13	Sexuality	Chapter 12, Andersen et al	Writing Assignment #6
		Chapter 15, Kagan	
14	Families and Religion	Chapter 13, Andersen et al	Writing Assignment #7
		Chapter 16, Kagan	
15	Education and Health Care	Chapter 14, Andersen et al	Writing Assignment #8
		Chapter 17, Kagan	
16	Environment, Population, and Social Change	Chapter 16, Andersen et al	Book Write-Up